

OPINION 984

ASTERIAS HISPIDA PENNANT, 1777 (ECHINODERMATA):
SUPPRESSED UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS IN FAVOUR OF
LEPTASTERIAS MUELLERI (M. SARS, 1846)

RULING.—(1) Under the plenary powers the specific name *hispida* Pennant, 1777, as published in the binomen *Asterias hispida*, is hereby suppressed for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy.

(2) The generic name *Leptasterias* Verrill, 1866 (gender: masculine), type-species, by original designation, *Asteracanthion muelleri* Sars, 1846, is hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology with the Name Number 1963.

(3) The specific name *muelleri* M. Sars, 1846, as published in the binomen *Asteracanthion Müller*i (type-species of *Leptasterias* Verrill, 1866) is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology with the Name Number 2480.

(4) The specific name *hispida* Pennant, 1777, as published in the binomen *Asterias hispida* (as suppressed under the plenary powers in (1) above) is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology with the Name Number 984.

HISTORY OF THE CASE (Z.N.(S.) 1895)

The present case was submitted to the office of the Commission by Dr. E. Brun in July 1969. Dr. Brun's application was sent to the printers on 26 August 1969 and was published on 7 April 1970 in *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **26** : 238–239. Public Notice of the possible use of the plenary powers in the present case was given in the same part of the Bulletin as well as to the other prescribed serial publications (Constitution Art. 12b; *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **21** : 184).

The only comment received was from Dr. L. B. Holthuis who wrote: "This application is incorrect in so far as Dr. Brun considers that there exists a specific name *hispida* Forbes, 1840. In his application, however, he makes perfectly clear that what Forbes (1840) did was to apply the specific name *hispida* Pennant, 1777, to a species of starfish.

"There is therefore no sense in asking the Commission to suppress this non-existent name (par. 3(1)(b) of the application), the suppression for just the Law of Priority of the name *hispida* Pennant, 1777 (par. 3(1)(a)) is quite sufficient.

"I propose therefore that par. (1)(b) of the concrete proposals and the reference to it in par. (2) be deleted from Dr. Brun's application."

DECISION OF THE COMMISSION

On 25 August 1971 the Members of the Commission were invited to vote under the Three-Month Rule on Voting Paper (71)20 either for or against the proposals set out in *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **26** : 239, with the omission of par. (1)(b). At the close of the prescribed voting period on 25 November 1971 the state of the voting was as follows:

Affirmative votes—fifteen (15), received in the following order: Holthuis, Munroe, Jaczewski, Mayr, Bonnet, Lemche, Simpson, Eisenmann, Melville, Tortonese, Sabrosky, Binder, Ride, Forest, Kraus.

Negative votes—none (0).

On Leave of Absence—one (1): Vokes.

Voting Papers not returned—two (2): Alvarado, Starobogatov.

Commissioner Brinck returned a late affirmative vote. The following comments were made by Commissioners in returning their votes:

Dr. H. Lemche (22.ix.71): "In order to avoid any uncertainty in the decision, I accept to 'suppress' the alleged name '*hispidula* Forbes'."

Dr. E. Eisenmann (6.x.71): "While Dr. Holthuis is technically right that Forbes did not consider that he was introducing a new name, it seems to me sensible to keep par. (1)(b) of the application and to approve it for safety's sake."

ORIGINAL REFERENCES

The following are the original references for names placed on the Official Lists and Index by the Ruling given in the present Opinion:

hispidula, *Asterias*, Pennant, 1777, *British Zoology* 4 : 62, fig. 58

Leptasterias Verrill, 1866, *Proc. Boston Soc. nat. Hist.* 10 : 350

muelleri, *Asteracanthion*, Sars, 1846, *Fauna littoralis Norvegiae* : 56, pl. 8, figs. 38, 39.

CERTIFICATE

I certify that the votes cast on Voting Paper (71)20 were cast as set out above, that the proposal contained in that Voting Paper has been duly adopted under the plenary powers, and that the decision so taken, being the decision of the International Commission, is truly recorded in the present Opinion No. 984.

R. V. MELVILLE
Secretary

International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

London

22 March 1972